**Hunting behaviors in wild central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*)**

Harmonie Klein1\*, Gaelle Bocksberger2, Pauline Baas2, , Sarah Bunel2, Erwan Théleste2, Simone Pika1 and Tobias Deschner1

1 University of Osnabrück, Institute of Cognitive Science, Comparative BioCognition, Osnabrück Germany

2 Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Primatology, Leipzig, Germany

harmonie.klein@hotmail.fr

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), one of our closest living relatives, are known to frequently hunt and consume mammals across Africa. However, hunting behavior has so far not been often reported in central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes)*. Furthermore, hunting rate are different across research sites and scholars considerate hunting as infrequent in population not sympatric to Red colobus (*Piliocolobus spp.),* the chimpanzees’ preferred prey species across sites. Here, we provide the first observations of mammals’ predation by individuals of a newly habituated community of the Loango National Park, Gabon and compare our results to pattern at long-term sites. With 61 predation events recorded in two years, the behavior is customary in this community and occur all year round, with a pic during the dry season. This season correspond to the period of high fruit availability at Loango, suggesting, as in eastern populations, a seasonal variation in hunting behaviors (i.e. nutrient surplus hypothesis). Rekambo community hunted eight mammal species (including monkeys and ungulates), with several species never reported as preyed before. Hunting mainly occurred in group, with a dominant males’ participation and success rate improved with increasing numbers of participants. While Red colobus is not present at Loango, hunting rate was in line with other research sites where populations are sympatric to this species and higher than in other sites where it is also absent. This study expands our current knowledge of chimpanzee behavior and show us that future investigations of new chimpanzee communities are mandatory to gain reliable insights into the chimpanzee behaviour diversity.