

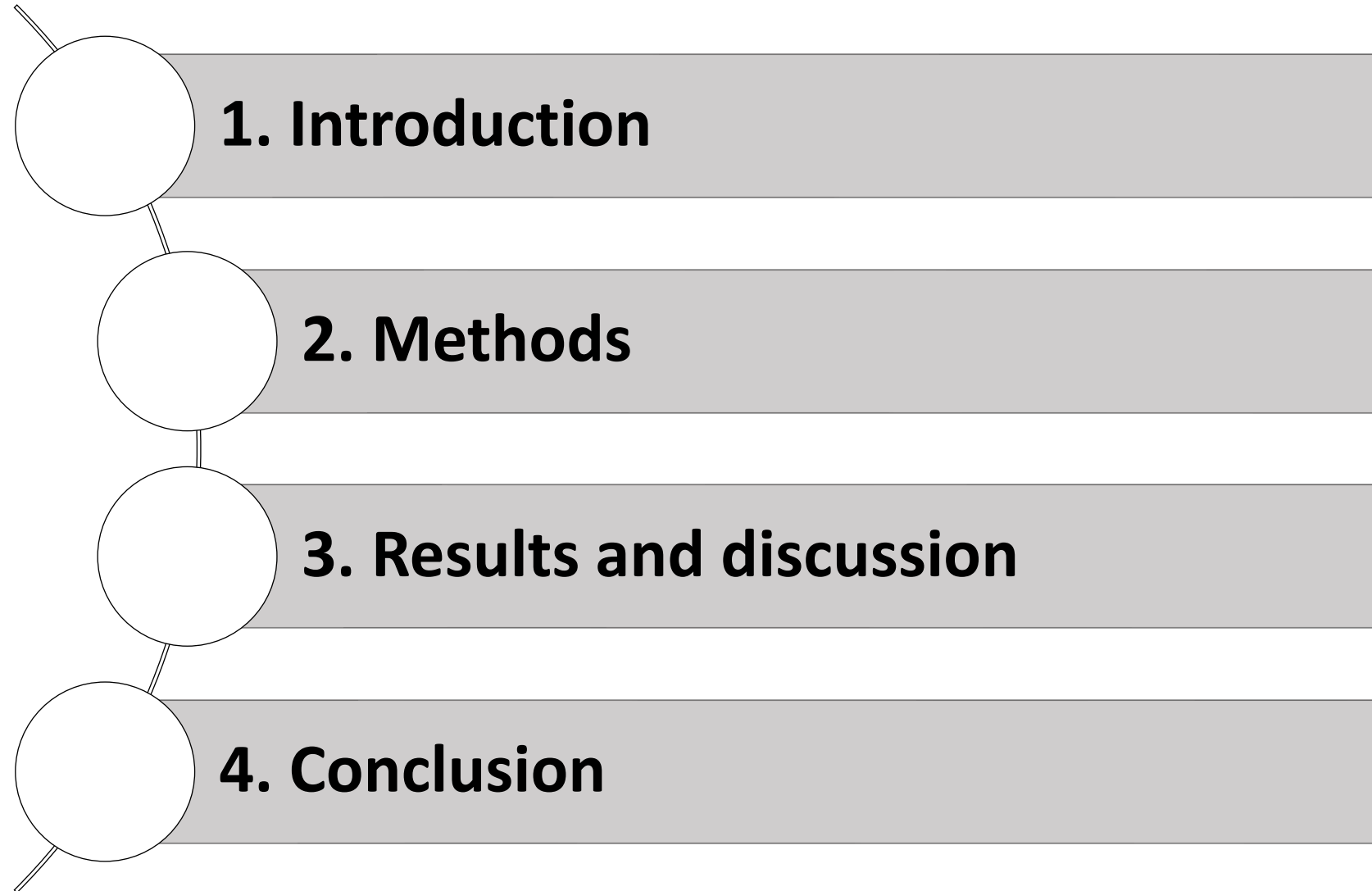


Uneven transmission of traditional knowledge and skills in a changing wildmeat system: Yangambi, DRC

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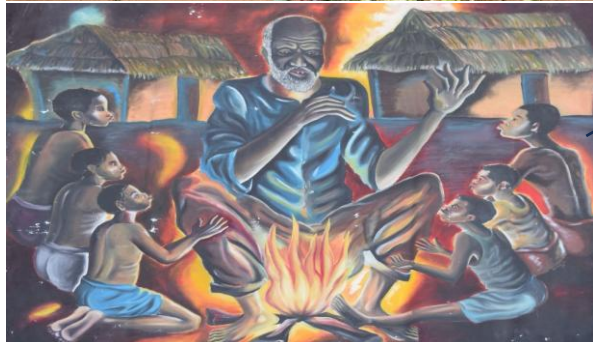
Plan



I. Introduction



Indigenous communities typically hold diverse traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of their social-ecological system



Skills and knowledge are passed on through daily activities, stories and local songs. Children observe and imitate adults

Much of this knowledge is embodied in skills related to the subsistence practices of hunting and gathering and is associated with community values and norms and a wider cosmovision.

I. Introduction



I. Introduction

Colonisation



Urbanisme and Modernity



Monetary economy



Migration



**Reduced development of the
transmission of traditional skills
and knowledge**

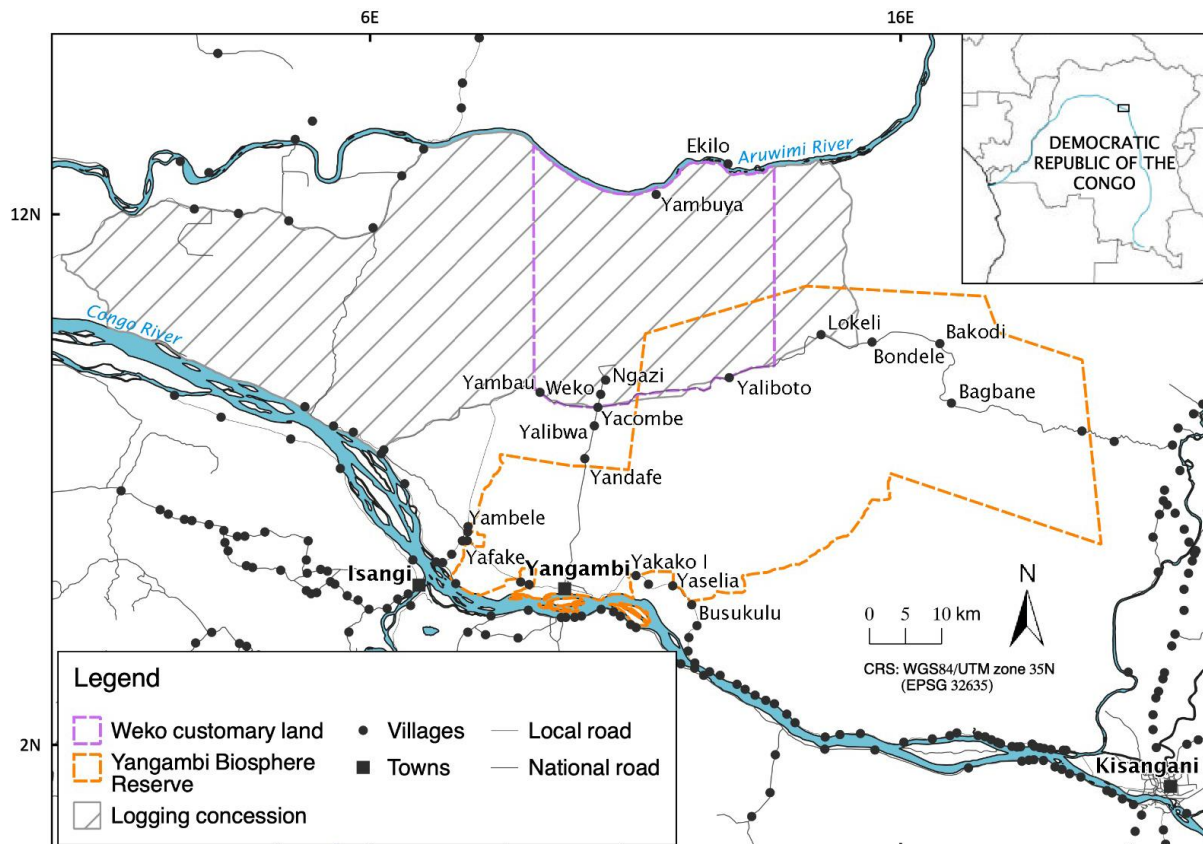


II. Methods

1. Overall objective

- to explore how levels of wildmeat knowledge and skill may have changed over time among the Turumbu

2. Study area: Yangambi landscape in Weko



3. Survey questionnaire



III. Results

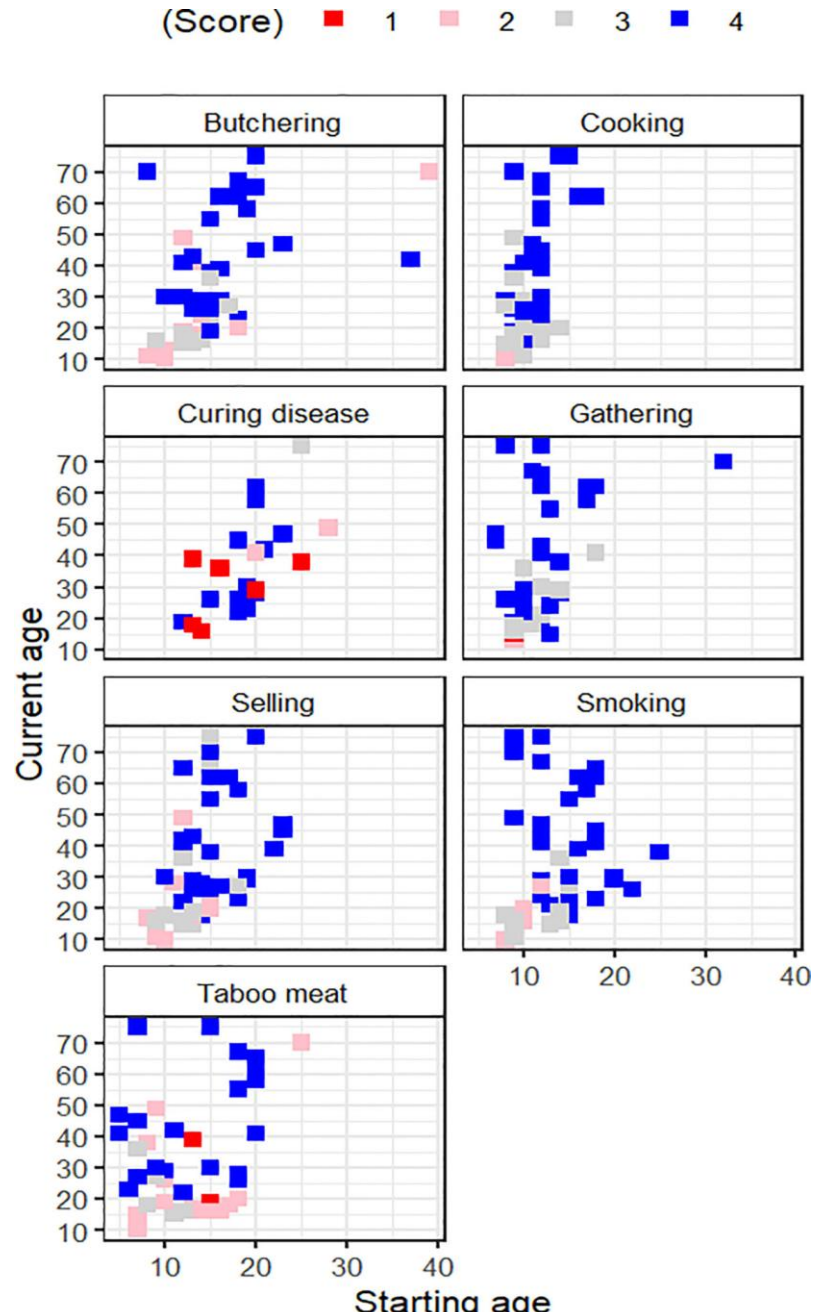


FIGURE 2

Learning of some skills begin at a younger age (<10 years), especially cooking, gathering and taboo meat for women.

The timing and degree of change differed across questions, with skills in curing disease and gathering wild produce possibly diminishing earlier (i.e., more Likert scores of 1 or 2) than skills in cooking, smoking and selling wildmeat

III. Results

(Score) ■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4

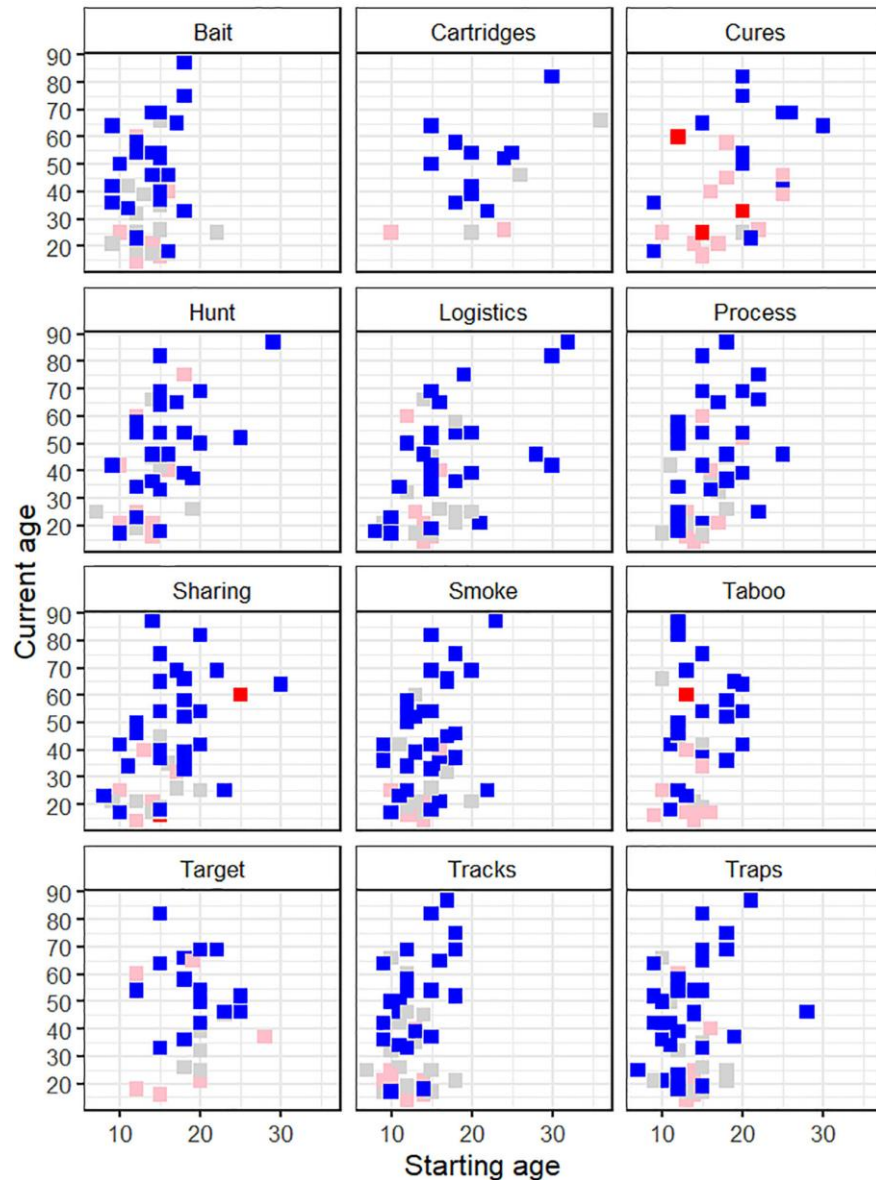


Figure 3

Learning of some skills commenced at a younger age (<10 years), especially tracking and trapping for men (Figure 3).

Other tasks such as curing disease (women) and making cartridges or aiming a gun (men) started at a later age.

III. Results

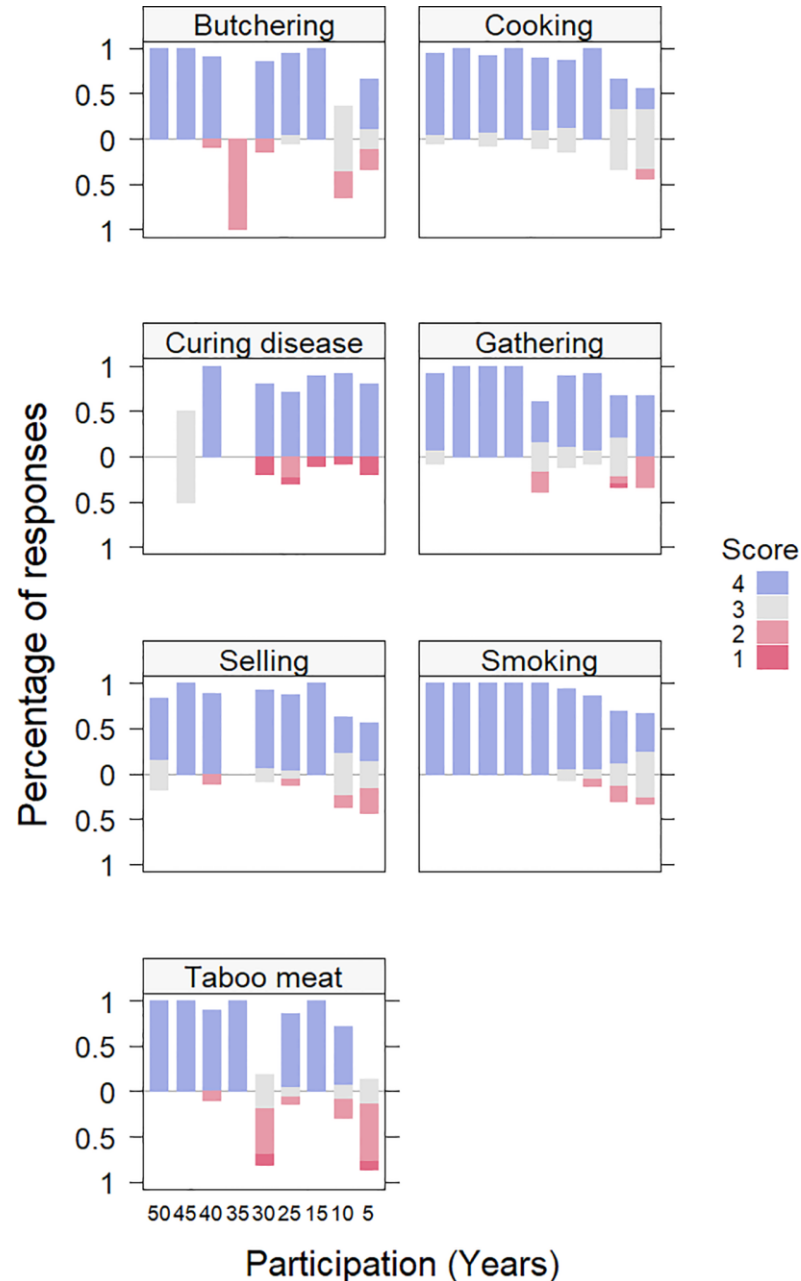


Figure 4

Self-reported expertise in most wildmeat skills appeared lesser among women who entered the wildmeat system in the last 10-15 years.

The timing and degree of change differed across questions, with skills in curing disease and gathering wild produce possibly diminishing earlier (i.e., more Likert scores of 1 or 2) than skills in cooking, smoking and selling wildmeat (Figure 4).

III. Results

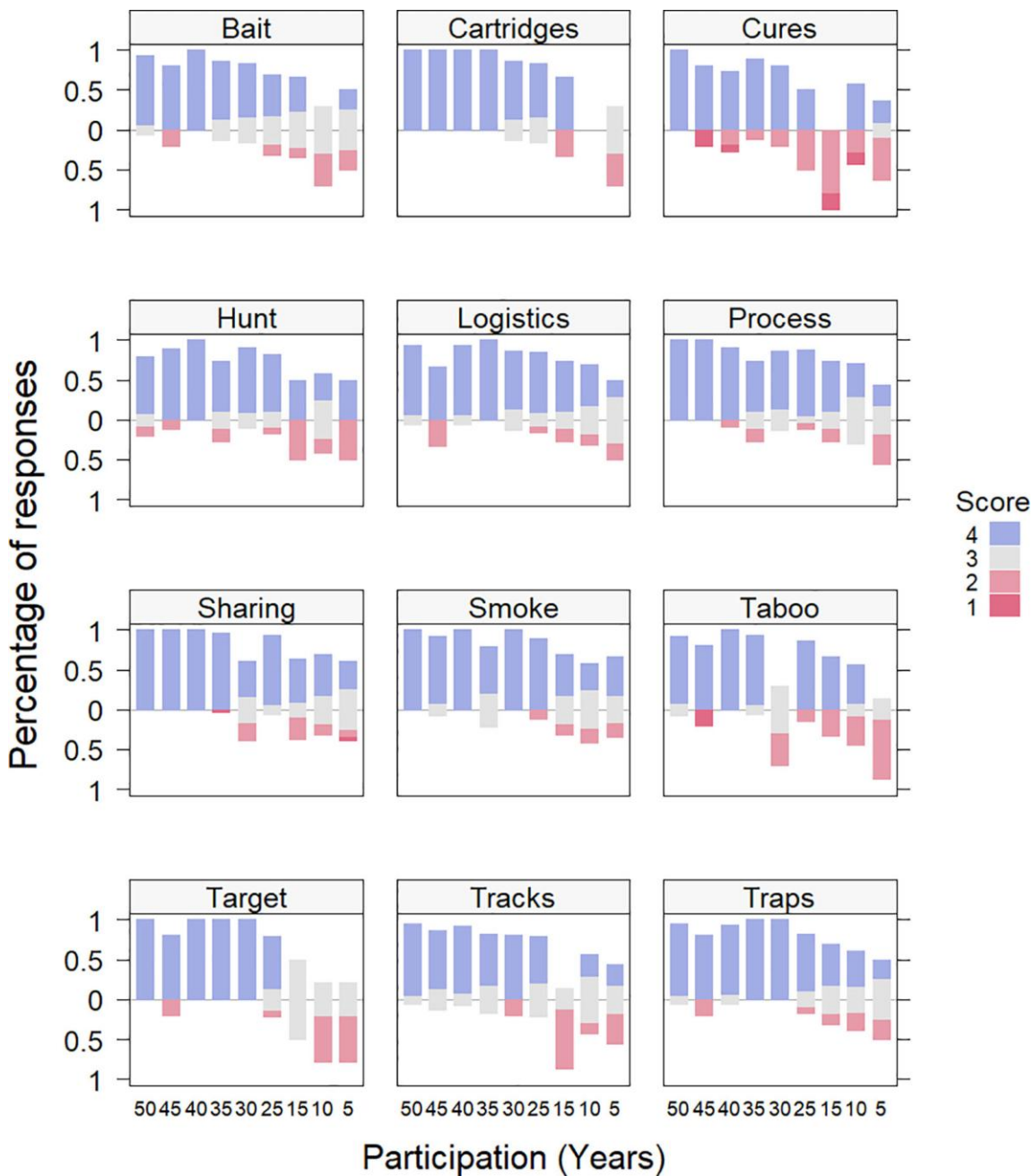


Figure 5

The recent lower level of knowledge and skills was much more marked for men, with a diminished level of expertise evident among those with participation shorter than 30-35 years.

Diminished sharing and learning of knowledge related to curing disease and wildmeat taboos may have started even earlier and subsequently become more severe (Figure 5).

III. Discussion

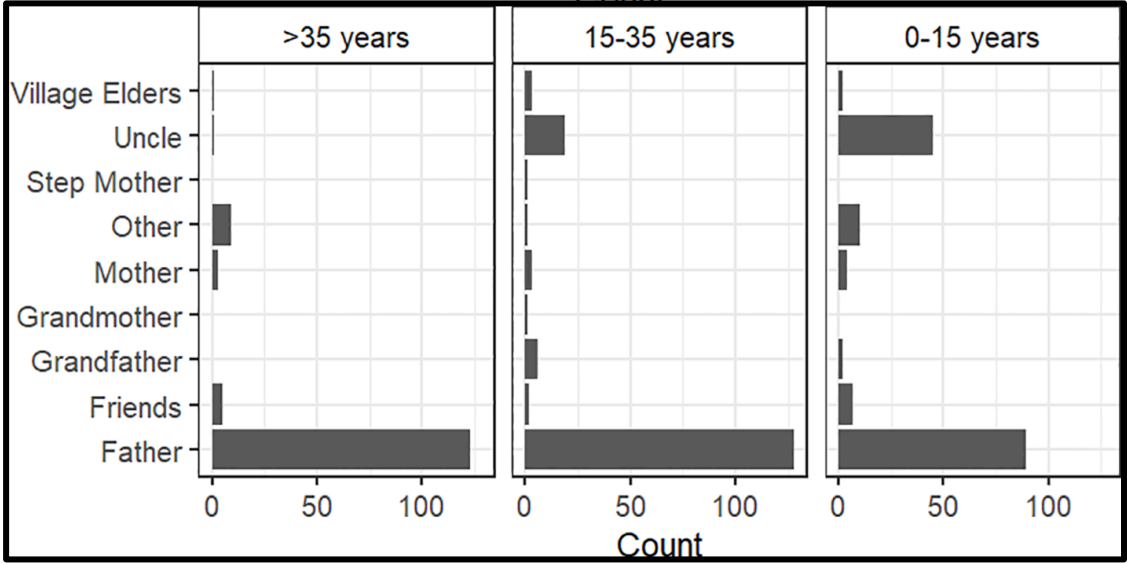
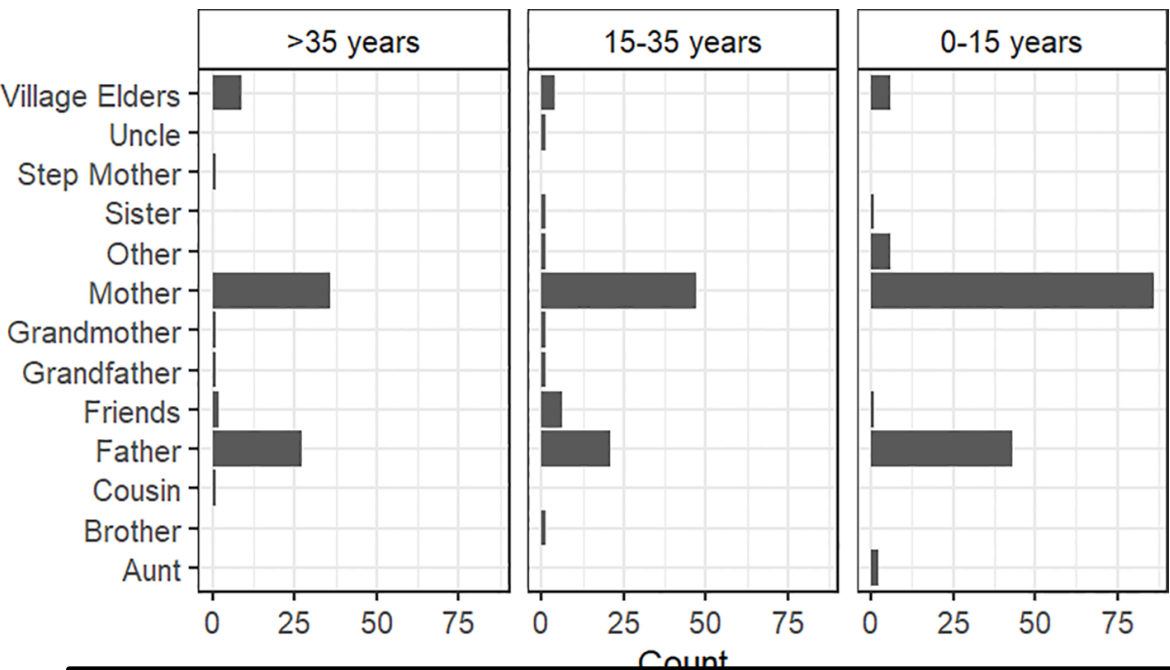


Figure 6

For women, the participation effect on proportion of high skill level was only important for cooking and smoking, which showed patterns resembling the data for men.

The contrast between men and women in time series of wildmeat skills may be linked to the key mentors that each group reported. **Most women indicated that they learnt wildmeat skills mainly from their mother, and to a lesser extent from their father.**

This pattern did not appear to change much over the observed range of experience in the system (Figure 6).

Women also better maintained pathways of knowledge transmission from mother to daughter, while men showed a shift from father to son transmission toward increased learning from uncles (Figures 6, 7).

IV. Conclusion

- ❖ Indigenous communities possess diverse traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) associated with their subsistence practices, shaped by gender roles. However, urbanization, the cash economy, and migration are reducing its transmission.
- ❖ In Yangambi (Democratic Republic of Congo), a questionnaire-based study among the Turumbu reveals a decline in wildmeat-related skills. This decline is more recent among women (10–15 years) and earlier and more pronounced among men (35–40 years).
- ❖ Certain skills (cooking, smoking, trading) persist better than others (traditional medicine, gathering). Knowledge transmission remains primarily maternal among women but has shifted toward uncles among men.
- ❖ These changes reflect the adaptation of knowledge systems to a rapidly evolving socio-economic context.



Thanks for your continued attention

