



Anthropogenic activities and current dynamics of forest cover in the National Park of the Ehotilé

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Located in the eastern part of Ivorian coast (department of Adiaké), at about a hundred kilometers from Abidjan, the national park of the Ehotilé islands and its periphery are composed of 9 islands, six of which have been classified in 1974 as national park to preserve their archaeological and biological wealth. The landscape is largely dominated by swampy forest, mangrove, riparian forest, swampy thicket and plantations of coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*). The natural environment of these islands faces up to important space transformations under the effect of demographic growth and the expansion of agricultural areas. This study aims to show changes in the vegetation of the Ehotilé islands and its management for a sustainable community development. The study is based on an analysis of a diachronic Landsat TM image of 1986-01-18 and a SPOT scene dating from 2007-01-17. These images were processed to enhance the thematic contrast. A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and a classification were carried out on the image of Landsat (1986) and SPOT (2007). They have made it possible to obtain the charts of occupation of the ground between the two dates. The crossing of data from 1986 and 2007, after resampling and orthorectification, permitted to highlight the changes occurred in the landscape of the national park of Ehotilé islands and its periphery. The remote sensing data on the vegetal dynamics are complemented by surveys of local communities to assess the impact of policies for the preservation of forests. The diachronic analysis shows an average change of the for-

est cover of about 58% during the period between 1986 and 2007. The study show the asymmetrical relationships between biophysical factors (climate, geomorphology, soil), socio economical factors (agricultural practices and social relation) and population growth in Ehotilé islands

Keywords: Ehotilé Island, Côte d'Ivoire, Remote sensing, land cover.