ABSTRACTAW

This study presents a detailed analysis of :he faunal remains from the Elmenteitan horizon at the Gogo Falls archaeological site in South Nyanza, western Kenya. From this the ecology and subsistence patte ~s of the people who occupied the site in the second millennium B.P. ire reconstructed. The species represented within the faunal assemlage are quantified by the number of identified specimens and minimum numbers of individuals methods while their relative dietary contribution is estimated by a modified version of the meat weights method. TIlis reveals that there were three main economic activities in the study area. These were herding, hunting and fishing. Relative spectra established on the basis of tooth eruption and replacement, tooth wear, and epiphyseal fusion idicate that the people in question preferred adult animals to young ones. Consequently, it is argued that hunting involved use of spears and arrows and not snares or traps lest the fauna would have been more representative of all ages. It is also argued that domestic stock were kept mainly for milk and possibly blood otherwise neonates and juveniles would have been fairly well represented in the assemblage. Body part representation and evidence of bone modification by humans and animals indicate that man was the main agent df depositing bone on the site. Body part representation and bone modification by humans also indicate that different texa were processed basically in the same way once killed, except that there was a tendency to carry to the site selected parts from the large ungulates. Finally, it ishypothesised that the subsistence patterns at Gogo Falls differed from those documented on other Elmenteitan sites because the ecological condition of the site radically dLf f ers f rcrn that of other known Elmenteitan occurrences and that ethno-archaeological models of contemporary pastoralist treatment of fauna will provide means for reconstructing past subsistence patterns if used cautiously and judiciously.