Review of: "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In General:

- After reviewing the manuscript titled **"Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"** I observed that the authors focused on evaluating the abundance assessment, species distribution, regeneration, and exploitation status of various rattan species across three disturbance levels within Nkoltang forest. Overall, I can affirm that this study lacks any scientific deficiencies.
- Improve the English language.
- Avoid using English pronouns, and possessive adjectives.

Title:

it is long.

Abstract:

Overall, the abstract aligns with the content and the experimental setup, and the findings were effectively showcased. The final section within the abstract should appropriately show the significance of the findings.

Keywords:

It's important to steer clear of employing identical terms for keywords within the title.

Introduction:

On the whole, the introduction adequately places the readers within the study's context. Nonetheless, it appears lengthy and requires trimming unnecessary sentences.

Materials and methods:

In the section titled (Choice of Study Sites), it's unnecessary to elaborate on rattan as a non-timber forest product (NTFP) extensively used in urban areas.

The authors should provide a clearer definition of the moderately and highly disturbed environments.

The authors should determine the specific criteria employed to delineate these two levels of disturbances.

For the measurement of stand size and regeneration involved tallying mature stems, seedlings, and buds within the clumps, the authors should instead of citing multiple authors, reference the first one who introduced or developed this methodology.

Concerning Data Analysis and Processing, the authors reiterated amply the term 'Highly Disturbed' is reiterated within the disturbance gradient (Low-disturbance, Highly Disturbed, and Highly Disturbed).

Results

The results section is structured effectively, employing subheadings to improve clarity. Yet, it would benefit from employing more explicit transitions between subsections to enhance the overall flow of information. Although the text refers to statistical tests, it lacks specific details about the tests used. It would be beneficial to elaborate more on the statistical methods employed, explaining the rationale behind selecting these tests and the significance levels.

The results are concise and easy to follow. Nevertheless, incorporating more descriptive language would enhance the elucidation of crucial findings. For instance, discussing the ecological implications of observed patterns and their potential influence on rattan populations could provide valuable insights.

Discussion:

The discussion is very long, and this section thoroughly examines the study's discoveries, encompassing rattan stand distribution, abundance, exploitation pressure, regeneration, and vegetative state in peri-urban areas of Gabon. While generally well-structured, breaking it down into smaller sections could improve readability and aid in digesting the information more easily.

The conclusion succinctly summarizes the primary outcomes of the study. To enhance the writing style, aim to diversify phrases like "This study allowed us to" to maintain reader engagement.

The presentation of findings regarding abundance distribution, exploitation pressure, regeneration, and vegetative state is clear and well-articulated. It's crucial to highlight the most noteworthy and innovative discoveries to make a lasting impact on the reader.

Conclude by outlining directions for future research. Identify particular knowledge gaps or areas that necessitate further investigation to expand upon the current findings, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive comprehension of rattan ecology and its management.