

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.

The manuscript provides insightful findings on the role of rattan in biodiversity conservation and how species distribution is impacted by anthropogenically driven disturbances in the Estuary province of Gabon. The manuscript concept is very interesting, especially coming from a relatively less studied region of the world and sparsely researched taxa (Rattan). In as much as the authors' effort on this work needs commendation, there are other pertinent issues they need to address before this manuscript can be published.

It was interesting to start your introduction on a global scale (Southeast Asia); however, I expected you to follow up with some overview of rattan distribution or threats in Gabon (your study area). Most of the introduction section was very generic with no mention of Gabon. I advise the authors to maintain a paragraph or two on the global overview and narrow the remaining paragraphs, focusing on the local context in Gabon. I believe the introduction could be shortened and made concise with much attention on Gabon, the study area.

The results section needs much work in the areas of presentation and content. The authors have a lot of useful information that needs to be presented in a more concise way to stimulate reading. In general, the whole manuscript could benefit from text formatting (full stops, commas, capitalization, and italization are needed in the appropriate places) and English proofreading.

Besides the comments above, many other comments that need addressing can also be found in the attached PDF.