

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 is very interesting and informative. There are a few things that I have picked up while going through it that need the authors' attention.

1. **Abstract:** The author was supposed to name the 7 species and 3 genera to which the 683 rattan stems belong.
2. **Introduction:** i) The introduction is way too long; I suggest it be trimmed to 1 and a half pages. ii) When citing someone's work, put the old reference first, then followed by the latest.
3. **Materials and methods:** i) Under choice of study sites (page 5), **NTFP** should be written out in full at the first mention, and then you can abbreviate it onwards. ii) Paragraph 2-4; km **vs** kilometer, the author needs to be consistent and choose which one will be used throughout the manuscript. iii) Page 7, under data analysis and processing, paragraph 2; the last sentence must not be written in italics.
4. **Results:** i) From page 9-13, there are so many words that are written in italics which are not supposed to be. ii) Page 11, the second paragraph needs to be rephrased to read better.
5. **Discussion:** i) There are words that are not necessary and have been overly used at the beginning of sentences, such as; **on the other hand, indeed, nevertheless, and in addition**. ii) On page 15, last paragraph, the author must check the brackets []. iii) I still see results under discussion.
6. **Bibliography:** i) Page 19, for example; pp **vs** Pp. ii) The author must decide how to write the journal names and stick to it throughout, for example; Journal of Ecology **vs** Int. J. Biol.