

# 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.

## On Form

### Title

### Abstract

The structure of the abstract does not respect that recommended in science: introduction (context, issue, problem, research objective or hypothesis, or even research question); methodology; results; and conclusion, possibly perspectives.

### Keywords

To increase the chances of the article being found on the Internet, the words contained in the title should not appear in the keywords.

### Material and methods

The location map of the study area (Figure 1) is in French, which is not scientifically acceptable. This map should be translated into English.

### Results and discussion

All figures contain captions in French, which is not scientifically acceptable. They need to be translated into English.

## On the background

### Title

The title proposed by the authors is not understandable.

### Abstract

Readers ask themselves a number of questions when reading the title and expect to find the answers to these questions when reading the abstract. For example, why was this study initiated? In other words, what is the scientific problem that this study wants to solve? Another question is "how will the authors go about solving this problem?" In other words, what

method(s) do the authors use to solve this problem? Unfortunately, when reading the abstract, the answers to these questions are not clearly mentioned.

## Introduction

- It is by reading the introduction that we understand the problem that this study seeks to resolve: “the development of industrial rattan activity in Gabon threatens the sustainability of the resource”. Indeed, the scarcity of the resource on the outskirts of the city of Libreville is already being felt acutely. The axis of exploitation of rattan stands has moved significantly from the urbanized areas of the city of Libreville towards the less urbanized areas on the outskirts of the city, notably around the forest of the Nkoltang region where the exploitation and commercialization of rattan stands has recently taken off.
- The authors do not explain to readers what a “perturbation gradient” is.
- The authors do not explain to readers how they measure ecological diversity, nor the structure, much less the exploitation of rattans.
- The objective is not clear. It is not SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-based).

## Conclusion

In science, the conclusion is made in relation to an objective, a research question, or a research hypothesis. This is not the case here.

## General remarks

- The length of this manuscript reflects that the authors have not sufficiently developed the “spirit of scientific synthesis.” Many things that are said can either be reduced or simply eliminated, thus reducing the number of words and pages.
- The method that seems to have been used, as read in the “materials and methods” section, is interesting. Unfortunately, it does not emerge in the abstract.
- The authors poorly present the results of their hard work through the proposed title. Indeed, the authors poorly pose the problem that could be resolved by their numerous results and the method they used.