

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

Wondimagegn Mengist

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Type of manuscript: original article

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

Comments

I would like to thank the authors for their efforts to conduct this research work. However, I would like to bring the following points to the attention of the authors to improve the manuscript:

1. Abstract

- This section has sufficient background concepts but lacks a clear method part (showing the time span of the study, plot size, and species identification).
- Before using abbreviations, it is good to use the full description, NDVI.
- Keywords are missed, and you should include adequate numbers of keywords.

1. Introduction

- The year 1987 is an old citation, representing about one-fifth of all palm species known in tropical forest regions (Uhl and Dransfield, 1987).
- Only the species name should be italicized; for example, *Calamus deerratus* Mann & H. Wendl.
- On paragraph 5, line number 4,... of rattan plant species and that the correlation... the dot between plants and species is not necessary.
- What do EAAs refer to?
- This section is well organized and discussed.

1. Methods

- How many hectares or square kilometers does the study site cover?

- What is your rationale for selecting this study site from the national park?
- Why did you not cover the entire national park?
- Are three plots from each part representative? (Do all have similar area sizes?)
-

1. **Results and discussion**

- They are well described and based on the data collected.
-

5. **Conclusion:** good and based on the findings.

6. **References** can include more recent literature and avoid old references.

General comment

- What is the final result of the study? I would like to see the implications of the study for policymakers and decision-makers in relation to the national park. Unless it has a smaller contribution,.
- The cutting rate is high in less and moderately disturbed sites; what are the driving factors? What measures should be taken to reverse it?
- What is the current land use and land coverage of the national park? Which land use and land cover are increasing or decreasing? Which human acts are a threat for the rattan species? Is there nature-assisted regeneration?