

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51624

Date: 16-05-2025

Title: INFLUENCE OF WOODY COVER ON THE NATURAL REGENERATION OF THREATENED TIMBER SPECIES IN THE YAPO-ABBE CLASSIFIED FOREST (SOUTH-EAST IVORY COAST)

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....YES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Title:

The title is clear and descriptive. It succinctly presents the central variables of the study—woody cover and natural regeneration—while identifying the geographic focus and the conservation context. It effectively signals the ecological and conservation-oriented scope of the research.

Abstract:

The abstract provides a concise and informative overview of the research. It clearly states the location, objective, methodology, main findings, and key implications. The structured summary captures the relevance of vegetation structure in influencing the regeneration of IUCN Red List timber species and highlights the ecological insight that moderate woody cover supports higher regeneration density. The language is precise and appropriate for scientific communication.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Keywords:

The keywords are relevant, thematically coherent, and reflect the paper's content. They aid in indexing and retrieving the study within ecological and conservation biology research domains.

Introduction:

The introduction offers a well-structured contextual background, establishing the ecological and societal importance of forests. It references relevant literature and positions the study within current environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, forest degradation, and climate change mitigation. The justification for selecting the Yapo-Abbé Classified Forest is clearly articulated, as is the importance of understanding natural regeneration processes in the context of threatened species.

The narrative moves logically from the general significance of forests to the specific conservation concerns in Côte d'Ivoire. It incorporates national and global environmental relevance and underscores the necessity of examining species regeneration in the face of anthropogenic pressure.

Scientific Rationale and Scope:

The paper presents a strong scientific rationale, focusing on natural regeneration as a key indicator of forest resilience and sustainability. By linking the IUCN Red List framework with local forest dynamics, the study achieves both international relevance and local applicability. The central research question—how vegetation cover influences the regeneration of threatened timber species—is clear, ecologically significant, and timely.

Methodological Framing (from Abstract):

Though detailed methodology is not fully presented in the text excerpt, the abstract describes a stratified sampling approach across varying levels of woody cover. This methodological design allows for a comparative analysis and supports the inferential validity of observed patterns in species regeneration.

Findings and Interpretation (from Abstract):

The findings are stated clearly, with the highest regeneration observed in moderately covered areas. This ecological insight contributes to understanding forest regeneration dynamics and offers a nuanced view of how microclimatic conditions and disturbance levels affect vulnerable

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

species. The results align with ecological theories on light availability, competition, and habitat structure.

Language and Style:

The language is formal, scientific, and accessible to a broad academic audience. The French portion of the introduction is well-written and thematically consistent with the English abstract, enhancing the paper's linguistic and regional authenticity.

Summary:

This paper presents a well-structured, ecologically significant, and methodologically sound investigation into the role of woody cover in supporting the natural regeneration of threatened timber species within a classified forest of Côte d'Ivoire. It integrates global conservation priorities with local forest management needs and contributes meaningfully to the discourse on tropical forest resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable ecosystem management.
