

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53221

Date: 11-08-2025

Title: MORTALITY OF EXOTIC SPECIES (*Eucalyptus deglupta* B., 1863, *Pinus caribaea* M., 1851, and *Gmelina arborea* R., 1814) IN CELLUCAM PLANTATIONS NEAR EDEA (LITTORAL, CAMEROON) AND AT THE INSTITUT SUPERIEUR AND THE MBAIKI INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC)

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Mir Tanveer

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The paper provides a detailed account of the establishment, management, and current state of artificial plantations at two sites — the CELLUCAM plantation near Edéa in Cameroon and the Higher Institute of Rural Development in Mbaïki, Central African Republic. The abstract clearly outlines the research objective, which is to evaluate the evolution of exotic species in the two locations, and summarizes the observed variations in density, mean diameter, basal area, mortality, and survival rates.

The comparative analysis between the poorly maintained CELLUCAM plantations and the well-managed Mbaïki plantations is well articulated. The discussion of mortality causes is comprehensive, citing both anthropogenic and natural factors such as abandonment after the cessation of CELLUCAM activities, herbivore damage, and pathogenic organisms. The paper effectively situates the research within the broader context of tropical forest exploitation, referencing deforestation rates and pressures from industrial and agricultural activities.

The introduction successfully establishes the significance of the study by linking it to global forest decline and providing specific data on Cameroon's forest resources. Historical context regarding CELLUCAM's operations is presented in detail, including the company's contractual agreements, operational practices, and reforestation methods. The choice of species — *Pinus caribaea*, *Eucalyptus deglupta*, and *Gmelina arborea* — is justified through their relevance to pulp production.

Overall, the manuscript is well-structured, progressing logically from context and problem statement to specific site histories and observed outcomes. The use of supporting literature strengthens the credibility of the presented information, and the comparative approach between the two sites highlights the role of plantation maintenance in determining survival rates of exotic species.

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