



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRAF_42848
Title of the Manuscript:	TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY AND STRUCTURE OF EDA FOREST RESERVE, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>Line 3-5: The title can be edited to be TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY AND STRUCTURE OF EDA FOREST RESERVE IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA</p> <p>Line 8: Eda Forest "Reserves" check for consistence if it is reserves or reserve as in the title, line 11 etc.</p> <p>Line 10: is the word Encroach representing the name of another forest reserve of the site of the forest which has been encroached by faming activities? It might need no initial upper-case letter.</p> <p>Line 14-15: These fits more as forms of the results presentation rather than analysis. I suggest to present the method or software for data analysis used in this study before presenting these modes. Also, you can delete these output presentation forms. Why using simple analysis? Look for some more software to analyze the diversity indices</p> <p>Line15: The results show that data were collected from three sites while in line 10 transects were laid only in three sites. Check for consistence.</p> <p>Line 15-18: The sentence is too long and thus being not clear to the readers. Please reconstruct it!</p> <p>Line 16: Use initial lower-case letters for words Primary, Secondary and Encroached like in lines 21 and 22 and maintain this consistence throughout your article</p> <p>Line 20: Lack coherence with other lines in this section "Sterculiaceae, caesalpiniodiae and moraceae are the most species rich families".</p> <p>Line 21: The mean basal area/ha in the study area was 3.18m2, 0.36m2 and 1.68m2 for primary, secondary and encroach farmland forests. It is not clear unless the word respectively is added at the end of the sentence or just write 3.18m2 for primary, 0.36m2 for secondary.....</p> <p>Line 22: Try to follow the tenses used in production of an abstract, maintain that format throughout the abstract</p> <p>Line 25: The high species diversity and the relative richness in timber species of the forest reserve correlate relatively with the abundance of each of the species counted in the reserve. "Timber species" is too informal in botany and forest please check the proper terminology</p> <p>General comments: Please revise the abstract section. Also put a good conclusion because those provided fits more as part of results and not conclusion.</p> <p>Line 31; Check the maximum number of key words from the Authors Instruction Guideline</p> <p>Line 34: Citation is needed at the end of this sentence also check for its grammar</p> <p>Line 35: Each years FAO produces annual global forest status. Therefore, use the most current sources of information. Also 2000 reference is old, there are many recently published articles about forests</p> <p>Line 39-49 This paragraph need more citations, for example, where did the author get these 600 and 1600mm? In the same paragraph, the issues of nutrients have been presented, what is the focus of the study? I advise to rewrite this part by focusing on the diversity and structure of forest. Remember soil fertility is covered under "below ground" status of forest.</p> <p>Line 50-55: The second paragraph need more citations and reflection to the theme or title of the paper i.e. diversity and structure of the forest in Nigeria and then Eda Forest Reserve as in Paragraph Lone 56.....to provide the general understanding of what is known and not known</p> <p>Line 55: What is F.D.F, 2005? Please revise on the proper citation throughout your paper</p>	<p>Line 3-5: The title suggested is ok.</p> <p>Line 8: the word "Reserves" was a typographical error. It has being corrected.</p> <p>Line 10: the word Encroach represent the site of the forest which has been encroached by farming activities.</p> <p>Line 14-15: Diversity indices were employed following Kent and Coker (1992), Magurran (2004) and Lu et al. (2010). And other statistical tools such as graph, grouped barchart and frequency tables.</p> <p>Line 15: Data were collected from three sites in the forest reserve: primary forest type, secondary forest type and encroach farmland forest type. Two transects 2000m and 500m apart were laid each in secondary forest and encroach farmland forest. While, purposive sampling method was adopted for primary forest due to the fragmented or patchy nature of the forest type.</p> <p>Line 15-18: It has being reconstructed.</p> <p>Line 16: It has being corrected.</p> <p>Line 20: It has being restructured.</p> <p>Line 21: It has being added.</p> <p>Line 22: Noted.</p> <p>Line 25: Corrected</p> <p>General comments: The conclusion has being redefined.</p> <p>Line 31: Noted.</p> <p>Line 34: Fixed.</p> <p>Line 35: Effectted.</p> <p>Line 39-49: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 50-55: Federal Department of Forestry is the repository of some of this information in Nigeria. The states mentioned in Lines 50-55 are the highly forested areas in the country and also the forests of high tree diversity and forest structure.</p> <p>Line 55: F.D.F means Federal Department of Forestry. F.D.F (2005) was one of their reports published in 2005 and is cited in the reference.</p> <p>Line 59: EKFD acronym of Ekiti state Forestry Department.</p> <p>General comment on introduction section: It has being amended.</p>



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	<p>Line 59: What is EKFD?</p> <p>General comments on the introduction section:</p> <p>This part is shallow, lacks logical flow of information to draw attention of the readers. The author must read more literature to enrich this section.</p> <p>The author must learn and present other research/documentations done in this area to theoretically know what is not in place so that to establish the need of carrying this study.</p> <p>The author must be focused to address forest diversity and structure.</p> <p>There is no hypothesis or study questions,</p> <p>There is no aim or objectives of the study</p> <p>There is no statement to justify the importance of this study etc.</p> <p>Material and methodology</p> <p>Line 67: You can choose to use Km or Ha to present the area of this forest</p> <p>Line 68: Check the se of 'on'... in this sentence before the word latitude</p> <p>Line 70: The author used Fig. 1 while in line 82, Figure 1? Be consistence (Fig. Vs Figure)</p> <p>Line 72: The reserve was????? What is the current status?</p> <p>Line 66-78: Please explain why this reserve was selected for this particular study</p> <p>orestryLine 82: No need to write this sentence in upper case letter</p> <p>Line 72 -78: Try to show the current status/management regime of this forest</p> <p>Line: 83. Make sure to maintain consistence. Look for example line 65: Study area Vs. line 83: why the words data collection begins with upper case letter?</p> <p>Line 84-86: Nowhere is the primary forest has been mentioned about transects on this stratum, which means there is mismatching between what is reported in the methodology and abstract section. Please resolve this case.</p> <p>Sampling procedure must be supported by existing literature, where did you adopt these sampling techniques and why?</p> <p>Line 94: S stand for what?</p> <p>Line 95-96: Put all these in the same line</p> <p>Line 97-98: Please put them in the paragraph in line 84- 91</p> <p>Line 93: The word Figure must be consistent throughout your manuscript also adjust line spacing between this line 92-93</p> <p>Data analysis approach is shallow, you have to revise and make sure you differentiated data analysis and presentation formats of tour results. For each parametric analysis (structure and diversity indices) indicate the formula and where possible show the source of each formula for readers to follow, reapply/ replicate your data analysis techniques. Revise, adopt/adapt the proper software for analyzing species diversity indices. How did tree parameters like heights and diameter were measured? In forest structure we have adult trees, seedlings and saplings: What was your focus out of these subcategories? What criteria did you use to distinguish these classes?</p> <p>Line 110: begin with lower case letter for the words Primary and Secondary..... same as for Encroached....</p> <p>Line 109-112 is too long. Try to cut and produce two or so.. sentences for readers to easily follow.</p> <p>Table 1: Please put together all species, which belong in the same family, this approach will help to eliminate repetition of naming same families, Also, you can try to produce 12 columns to avoid a too much cells of the table. Try to apply the same in table 2</p> <p>Line 126: I would say highest number then put is bracketed form the figure (i.e. 53) as well as for subsequent family figures.</p> <p>Line 131: Delete the last four words</p> <p>Line 132: Why underlined sentence?</p> <p>Line 138: Put in Italic the word robusta..... and to mention few, please add a before "few"</p> <p>Line 139: Delate the word species after pustulata</p>	<p>Line 67: Km has being adopted.</p> <p>Line 68: checked.</p> <p>Line 70: The word 'Figure' is adopted.</p> <p>Line 72: The status remain the same.</p> <p>Line 66-78: The protection status of the reserve has being altered by the government which culminated in poor management and high exploitation. The reserve was selected because of its biodiversity potential and lack of documented information about the potentials either in print or electronic format for both local and international audience.</p> <p>Line 82: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 72-78: The status of the reserve remain the same. But the conservation and management was poor.</p> <p>Line 83 vs Line 65: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 84-86: Resolved.</p> <p>Line 94: s in that space is an error. It has being deleted.</p> <p>Line 95-96: Checked.</p> <p>Line 97-98: Checked.</p> <p>Line 93: Corrected.</p> <p>Data analysis approach and presentations was adopted following Kent and Coker (1992), Magurran (2004) and Lu <i>et al.</i> (2010). The lower limit of diameter class used for enumeration was $\geq 10\text{cm}$ Adekunle <i>et al.</i> (2013).</p> <p>Line 110: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 109-112: Reviewed.</p> <p>Table 1: This is the table showing the tree species composition and distribution in the forest reserve. The format is the best to show the composition and distribution of tree species in the reserve. The trees in the same family were presented under one family in Table 2 i.e Tree species family composition and distribution in the forest reserve.</p> <p>Line 126: Rectified.</p> <p>Line 131: The last four words has being deleted as directed.</p> <p>Line 132: The underline has being removed.</p> <p>Line 138: Corrections effected.</p> <p>Line 139: Correction effected.</p> <p>Line 142: Noted.</p> <p>Line 158: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 159-162: Noted.</p> <p>Line 171: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 175-178: Noted.</p> <p>Line 179: Noted.</p> <p>Line 181-185: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 187: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 218: Effected.</p> <p>Line 222-233: Noted.</p> <p>Line 223-233: Noted.</p> <p>The write-up has being screened. The discussion pattern followed the pattern used by Adekunle <i>et al.</i> (2013).</p> <p>Figure 3 and Table 4 has being moved to result section.</p>
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	<p>Line 142: Yes, trees are part of vegetation but you didn't assess the whole components of vegetation. Just focus to report on tree species</p> <p>Line 158: Why upper-case letters in these words?</p> <p>Line 159-162: These statements fit more on the methodology section rather than here. No citation is required in the results section</p> <p>Line 171: Why the word primary in italic form?</p> <p>Line 175 -178: These lines fits into methodology section than here</p> <p>The results lack statistical analysis to support the variation across the study sites</p> <p>Line 179: "which may be due to high correlation in height and diameter", this one fits more into discussion</p> <p>Line 181: The why upper case at the beginning of the word secondary and primary and encroach in 185? Correct these cases throughout your documents</p> <p>Line 187: Please check line spacing, then reorganize this section because some information in this part have been presented in earlier sections. Also, some fits more into the discussion part.</p> <p>Line 187: Please insert spacing line between 186 and 187</p> <p>Line 218: Line spacing should be observed throughout your paper</p> <p>Line 222-223: Look for existing information from the same zone, before this global comparison</p> <p>Line 223-233: Is a repetition of results, this is not required in this section, avoid that in all subsequent sections/ lines</p> <p>I some cases you have mentioned regeneration.... Did you gauge the regeneration potential of this forest? If so, how did you investigate it?</p> <p>Throughout your paper check for references style e. g. some et al are in italic while others not</p> <p>Figure 3 and Table 4 should be under results section</p> <p>This current discussion is full of results repetitions. More inputs are required in the discussion section. The implication of the findings must be clearly stated by supporting the existing literature or not and the possible justifications for similarities or differences.</p> <p>Line 276-279: Please conclude based on your aim and the findings of your work. Don't introduce new topic here.</p> <p>Line 279: What qualify this forest to be 'world heritage" site that requires improved conservation, is that declared under IUCN?</p> <p>Line 281: "Should be intensify for these species" check for its grammar</p> <p>Line 280-281: Did you gauge and conservation measures? Why is your conclusion mentioning issues which were not covered in any section of this work?</p> <p>This line 281-283: "The results of this work will serve as baseline data that could be helpful in the appraisal of plant resources of the tropical rainforest ecosystem for its effective management". Fits well under the importance of conducting this study (introduction part) rather than in the conclusion</p> <p>Lone 283- 287: "The activities of the rural communities around the forest should be properly monitored by the government agency responsible for the protection and management of the forest reserve". There is nowhere in this paper the issue of human activities has been assessed to affect this reserve. Avoid concluding from what have not been covered in your study.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Need to be improved more, for example the spacing between pp and page numbers in 291 and 294, 296 etc. are not uniformly set look the space, period, etc, line 303 the pp is missing, same case as in line 305, 309-2010, 313, 317 etc... some numbers are in bold unlike others. Consistence on how to organize years of publication look for example in Line 303 there is ":" just after the year, which is in bracket, while in line 305 there is only a period (.), and in 308 there is no bracket as in 311. Please work on these errors seriously.</p> <p>Some references need website links such as refence number 290, 292,295 etc. because they are reports, not published in the peer reviewed articles, give the</p>	<p>Line 276-279: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 279: Amended.</p> <p>Line 281: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 280-281: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 283-287: Rectified.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Line 291-311: Corrected.</p> <p>Line 295-300: Rectified.</p> <p>All references are in the same style as directed.</p>
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	<p>specific dates you accessed these documents Look how FDF, (2005) in Line 295 if it is similar to that in Line 55 Look if the format of reference in 297 is the same as that in 300, (How and where to put sur names and initials) Make sure all references are referenced in a similar style.</p>	
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments	<p>Enough time is needed to review this paper. Best luck!</p>	