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Adaptive Cluster Sampling in NTFP Research

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Abstract

In natural tropical rain forests the relative abundance of certain species is relatively low (< 5 individuals per hectare). Due to individual dispersal patterns or site changes on the micro level some of these species tend to occur in groups. Ordinary forest inventory designs are ineffective in analysing the abundance and spatial distribution of rare, clustered species.

A cooperation project of the University of Freiburg with the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products was carried out with the objective to compare the effectiveness of an adaptive cluster sampling with primary and secondary units and an ordinary strip sampling. The data recording was carried out in a secondary tropical forest in central Cameroon and was conducted with chosen NTFP species.

Keywords: Cameroon, geographic information system, management plan, non"=timber forest products

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