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Forest diversity in fragmented landscapes of northern Ethiopia and implications for conservation

Understanding plant species diversity and spatial distribution along environmental gradients is crucial in the management of forest ecosystems. This study investigates (1) plant species diversity and natural regeneration of fragmented dry Afromontane forests in northern Ethiopia in relation to selected environmental factors, and (2) the effect forest dieback has on forest structure and diversity. The results show that anthropogenic disturbance and climate-induced forest dieback have significantly affected structure, diversity, and natural regeneration of the forests and have thereby favored the encroachment of shrub and herb species. It is essential to give priority to conservation and restoration in the last Afromontane forest remnants to achieve local, national and international biodiversity conservation goals.