Dear Editor,

We are pleased to send this manuscript to be considered for publication in npj biodiversity as a Comment. This manuscript is entitled “Three pathways to better recognize the expertise of Global South researchers” and was authored by G Nakamura, B Soares, V Pillar, J Diniz-Filho, and L Duarte, who agree with the submission of the current version.

Our manuscript discusses pathways towards a genuinely diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment in the research community when it comes to the Global South scientific community. In this comment, we argue that while research institutions at the Global North are improving at DEI actions, future efforts must address how Global North researchers recognizes and places the academic knowledge produced by Global South researchers. We supported this argument on recent empirical work published in the literature and supporting analysis of secondary data on citation bias and geographical markers. Finally, we provided three practical actions to achieve a more equitable and overcome the neocolonial bias in academic expertise.

We believe that our comment suits npj biodiversity audience since we discuss a topic of immediate interest for any researcher or research institute. We delve into a series of papers published in Nature portfolio about related topics to DEI. However, in this comment, we focus on an aspect we considered complementary to those papers (academic manifestations of neocolonialism in the recognition of the knowledge produced at the Global South).

We attest not having any other manuscripts under consideration elsewhere.

Below we provide some suggestions on potential reviewers to this comment and a brief justification on why they are suitable for reviewing this article:

1 – Dr. Luisa Maria Diele-Viegas – Universidade Federal da Bahia – Dr. Diele-Viegas has an extensive record of articles and comments about bias in research, mainly related to gender.

2 – Dr. Adriana Romero-Olivares – University of New Mexico – Dr. Romero-Olivares has been working on diversity and inclusion aspects, mainly the ones related to differences and inequalities between Global North and South

On behalf of all co-authors

Gabriel Nakamura