P.A. Martin

Centre for Conservation Ecology and Environmental Science,

Faculty of Science and Technology,

Bournemouth University,

Poole, BH12 5BB.

UK.

Jean-Paul Laclau, Forest Ecology and Management

Dear Dr Laclau,

We appreciate the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript ‘Stand dieback and collapse in a temperate forest and its impact on forest structure and biodiversity’ to Forest Ecology and Management. We appreciate the advice of the reviewers and all comments and suggestions by reviewers and the editor have been addressed and changes made to our manuscript where appropriate. In particular we have undertaken further analysis to examine the potential impacts of climate change and droughts on the mortality of trees in our study site. These analyses show that growing season temperatures have increased from 1964-2014. More importantly we show that there have been significant droughts that may have caused mortality of beech trees, which are sensitive to drought conditions. We have also added statistical analysis on basal area dynamics after loss to show that forest structure failed to recover. In addition we have shortened the manuscript to make it easier to follow.

Yours faithfully,

P A Martin