Dear reviewer.

Thank you very much for the positive response to our manuscript. We revised the manuscript according to your suggestions and the others of your colleagues. We are extremely grateful for the valuable and helpful comments and suggestions. All the changes made are explained in detail below:

Following the MDPI suggestion, comments have been answered point by point in red and modified in the text when necessary.

**POINT 1.** Lines 74-78: Cite some references for “intensive discussion between local livestock farmers and conservationists”.

**POINT 1.** The statement is the outcome of many stakeholder discussions made by NCI in the context of the project “Local decisions, rights of the people and sustainable management of natural resources in the dry forest (Ecuador – Perú)”. In addition, it is supported by the consecutive statements in the paragraph. Lines 77-83.

**POINT 2.** Line 170-171: Unclear how basal area was calculated? Forest inventory data was used for the calculation… so was any equation used to covert DBH to basal area? Also for HPI calculation, was $B$ the total basal area in each plot?

**POINT 2.** The sentence has been clarified, line 182. Equation used to compute basal area was included in line 209. Line 176 was clarified, total basal area per plot was used.

**POINT 3.** Line 171-174: the $HPI = 0$ means no pressure, now give a sense of how large $HPI= 0.01367$ would be. It seems a very small value. Also I do not understand what the meaning of “circular calculations”.

**POINT 3.** Yes, it is a very small difference. The calculation of HPI took as limit a distance of 3 km (Lines 178-179) because 6 km is the mean distance that the goats walks per day, and also it is the distance of highest intervention of the people.

HPI was calculated by adaptation of Hegyi´s competition index (Line 172), thus, the small value should not be considered as such, because inside this is an index.

“Circular calculations” now changed to “circular argument” (line 183) means that we want avoid to compute: e.g. the effect on basal area with a predictor in which one of its components is the basal area (equation 1).

**POINT 4.** Line 191: Explain what the Simpson reciprocal index is and add reference(s).

**POINT 4.** Done! Included on line 202-203

**POINT 5.** Line 200: Again explain the Sorensen index and add reference(s).

**POINT 5.** Explanation included in line 215-216
POINT 6. Lines 203-204: So which one was used, GLMMs or LMMs or both?

**POINT 6.** Explanation of how they were used is in lines 235-241. GLMMs was used to assess species richness while LMMs was used to assess diversity, similarity, number of individuals per ha and basal area.

**POINT 7.** Line 219: PQL. Spell this out.

**POINT 7.** Included in line 237

**POINT 8.** Line 221: Explain why REML was chosen for the analysis of the predictors.

**POINT 8.** Done! Lines 240-241

**POINT 9.** Figure 3b: It is lacking legend. What are a blue line and a grey buffer zone in this figure?

**POINT 9.** Included in the figure caption. Line 271