

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Journal of Geography, Environment and Earth Science International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JGEESI_99782
Title of the Manuscript:	Analysis of Land Use and Land Cover Changes in Owerri Municipal and its Environs, Imo State, Nigeria (2005 – 2015).
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<https://www.journaljgeesi.com/index.php/JGEESI/editorial-policy>)

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript) Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title) Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate? Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct? Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>Abstract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The current abstract is quite disorganized and needs to be framed within 150-250 range for brevity and conciseness purposes. -It is strange as to how the authors began with the main drivers and giving more details to the methodology and approach. I humbly suggest authors to re-organize or rephrase the abstract to begin with the primary aim or objective of the study, followed by a summary of the main methodology and approach used, and summarized key/main findings in 2-3 sentences. The concluding sentence could be maintained or should highlight the relevance of this study or its contribution. -I suggest you substitute "ArcGIS" with "ArcMap." If authors wish to maintain ArcGIS then they need to be more specific with the version which I think is not necessary since more details are given in the methodology section of this study. Use of ArcMap is more appropriate within the context of this study. -Lines 17-20 must be removed since it is captured in the methodology section. The abstract must be brief and succinct as much as possible to coax readers. -The main findings must have quantitative results; thus, percentage (%) of change in the main land use/land cover classes, over the given study period, attached to each land use type/class. <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The introduction is too lengthy or long. Some of the paragraphs seem to be quite repetitive in logic. Authors must remove and revise some of the paragraphs to highlight some guiding concepts or standardized theories like sustainable development goals (SDGs) like SDG 11, 13 and 15 which are intertwined, forest transition theories, Ecosystem based approaches and so on. Kindly refer to this current literature by Sarfo et al. (2022)/(2023) to enrich the study's literature and discussion. -Sarfo, I., Shuoben, B., Beibei, L. et al. (2022). Spatiotemporal development of land use systems, influences and climate variability in Southwestern Ghana (1970–2020). <i>Environ Dev Sustain</i> 24, 9851–9883 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-021-01848-5 -Sarfo, I., Shuoben, B., Otchwemah, H.B. et al. (2022). Validating local drivers influencing land use cover change in Southwestern Ghana: a mixed-method approach. <i>Environ Earth Sci</i> 81, 367 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-022-10481-y -Sarfo, I., Bi, S., Kwang, C. et al. (2023). Class dynamics and relationship between land-use systems and surface temperature in south-eastern Ghana. <i>Environ Earth Sci</i> 82, 104 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-023-10755-z <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paragraphs could be kept between 4 and 5. -Kindly highlight the main contribution or relevant of this study to industrial players, policy-makers and the international scientific community. <p>Methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Area: Authors need to briefly integrate or add a justification or why the current study area and its selected units were carefully chosen (i.e., what makes the area unique or peculiar for this study). -Kindly state the specific version of ArcGIS software which was used. -Authors are advised to enter or insert all equations given in this with the "Insert equation tab" or "Math Type or function." 	

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	<p>-Again, each equation must be numbered accordingly (1)...(2)...(3)</p> <p>-It will be appropriate for others to design a workflow or flowchart that visualizes data input and acquisition sources, image pre-processing and enhancement, classifications, change detection and accuracy assessment for the analysis which was done.</p> <p>Results and Discussion:</p> <p>-For clarity and coherence/consistency purposes, I humbly suggest authors to separate the discussion aspect from the results.</p> <p>-The results section must solely present the results of this study, whilst the discussion expatiates or explains the results into details.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>-I didn't see the results of this study discussed thoroughly or compared to existing literature. Authors need to discuss the results by making each paragraph in the discussion section carry a particular logic or perhaps, design it in sub-sections to highlight the main drivers and implications of these changes with explanations pertaining to the results and if they agree or refute existing findings conducted elsewhere like that of Sarfo et al. 2022 or 2023 and other studies conducted in Nigeria or other developing countries.</p> <p>-Sarfo, I., Shuoben, B., Beibei, L. et al. (2022). Spatiotemporal development of land use systems, influences and climate variability in Southwestern Ghana (1970–2020). <i>Environ Dev Sustain</i> 24, 9851–9883 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-021-01848-5</p> <p>-Sarfo, I., Shuoben, B., Otchwemah, H.B. et al. (2022). Validating local drivers influencing land use cover change in Southwestern Ghana: a mixed-method approach. <i>Environ Earth Sci</i> 81, 367 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-022-10481-y</p> <p>-Sarfo, I., Bi, S., Kwang, C. et al. (2023). Class dynamics and relationship between land-use systems and surface temperature in south-eastern Ghana. <i>Environ Earth Sci</i> 82, 104 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-023-10755-z</p> <p>-Kindly note that it is mandatory and scientifically appropriate to compare findings with existing literature for research progress purposes and to serve as baseline or reference for other studies.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>-It is unacceptable to cite any figure in the concluding section. Kindly move Fig.5 to the results/discussion section.</p> <p>-The main findings should be made clear in the conclusion. They can be given as bulletins by paraphrasing without repeating what was given in the results section.</p> <p>-Authors should consider highlighting some study limitations, gaps or opportunities that could drive future studies.</p> <p>-Recommendations and significance of these findings to relevant stakeholders must be given to conclude this section.</p>	
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Minor REVISION comments 1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Other comments: -The paper is generally well-written. However, some minor to moderate grammatical defects and syntax errors were identified. Authors are advised to check and revise where necessary to improve the flow or proficiency level of the paper. -The manuscript despite its application value requires thoroughly re-organization. -Some of the references given are incomplete or is missing some details	
Optional/General comments	The manuscript is informative and have the needed ingredients to be considered for publication based on its application value. However, there are some major issues that ought to be addressed to improve upon the quality, coherence and flow of the paper.	

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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