Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	**International Journal of Environment and Climate Change**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_IJECC_99684**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Floristic diversity of Raithan range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Jammu and Kashmir, India**
Type of the Article	**Original Research 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.
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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)*
Compulsory REVISION comments 1. **Is the manuscript important for scientific community?** (Please write few sentences on this manuscript) 2. **Is the title of the article suitable?** (If not please suggest an alternative title) 3. **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?** 4. **Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?** 5. **Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?** 6. **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.** **(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)**	**Yes! - Contributions of scientific work:** Floristic analyzes in the alpine zone are particularly valuable not only for India but also at the global level. The study marks the beginning of a more in-depth study of the Raithan range with a view to controlled use of resources and introduction of protection measures where necessary. The studied area is to large and the described species are few !!!!, so the use of superlatives such as "significant plant diversity" should be avoided. Please, if it cannot be corrected in the title, clarify at the very beginning that this is a pilot study, an express assessment, a pioneering study, a first inventory of the floristic diversity in the given territory - I am attaching sample articles. Yes Yes Yes ! - See Part 2!!! Yes!	
Minor REVISION comments 1. **Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?**	Yes!	
Optional/General comments	The article analyzes the floristic diversity in the Raithan range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Jammu and Kashmir, India. Describing the plant diversity in a given area is the first step in its conservation. Of interest to science is not only the taxonomic affiliation of species, but also the relationships they form with anthropogenic and abiotic factors. Floristic surveys at the regional level are particularly valuable in this regard. From the article, it is not possible to understand to what extent the territory is subjected to anthropogenic pressure - relatively small distances to settlements are indicated, but it is not understood how numerous they are. From the given altitudes, it is clear that the analyzed flora is alpine, which suggests the determining importance of abiotic factors. For greater objectivity and easier identification of plant diversity, the samples were collected from areas with different altitudes - 1800 - 2300m, 2300 - 2800m, > 2800m. The study found a predominant participation of *Angiosperms*, *Dicotyledons* and grass species. Leading families are *Asteraceae, Rosaceae* and *Poaceae*. The dominance of *Asteraceae* and *Poaceae* speaks for the existence of many open grasslands. The influence of the altitude and the specific abiotic conditions determined by it was accounted for on the basis of the number of species described in each zone. Plant diversity is greatest in the zone with the lowest altitude. **Dear colleague/colleagues, I have the following comments on the article:** 1. The **introduction** is general - the results of all papers cited by 8-22 and also 23-31 can be used as an introduction to the topic, as well as 38 whose results are cited in the discussion. 2. In terms of systematics, the following online sources that I give to my students and that I use personally will help you (see Additional sources - systematics): 3. For online sources: International Plant Name Index (IPNI), Catalog of Life, Plant Net, The Plant List and GRIN also deserve respect and should be cited in the text briefly, and in the table of contents with the full online address: Available at : http// 4. The research mentions the economic importance of the species: "basic food crops, construction, materials and pharmaceuticals, oils, lubricants, rubber, other latexes, resins, waxes, fragrances, dyes and fibers"; and their origin – "indigenous species", but the table	

	does not make it clear what their economic importance is, or which are indigenous or not. 5. In **results and discussion** - angiosperms, gymnosperms, pteridophytes - in capital letters, the first paragraph is repeated. 6. The analysis of floristic diversity and the influence of altitude on it are two different topics, resp. articles. The title correctly reflects an analysis only of the floristic diversity and its distribution by taxonomic categories. The transect method is usually used in floristic surveys, but altitude also works. Justify in what way the altitude is determined. – i.e. whether off-the-shelf forestry information or some device was used, and note that the transect routes follow the elevations mentioned. It is desirable that the monitoring includes several growing seasons (ie several years), which will enrich the analyzed species diversity. 7. For the distribution of vegetation in relation to altitude, see attaching examples that you may use in your other articles. Repeating the results and comparing with cited source 29 is not helpful and even undesirable!! 8. Altitude in this case can be used only to the extent of showing which species are distributed below 1800 m and which - in the extreme conditions above 2800 m - this is valuable floristic information for all botanists in the world, and sheds new light on the distribution of the taxa 9. In common speech, plants are classified into trees, shrubs, herbs – this is Theophrastus system by habit. The term "herb" applies more when we talk about herbs - in this case it is appropriate to use the term perennial, biennial, annual species. When talking about life forms - a, b, p, ħ, Ꞧ, it is desirable to use the life forms of Raunkiaer. 10. **In conclusion** - The survey is the first of many surveys of the flora and vegetation of the area, so until a comprehensive picture of the available plant resources is obtained and a plan is prepared for their sustainable management, they remain in quarantine - ie. any hint of economic activity is excluded : " In this area, there are several arboreal species that are used as sources of food, fodder, fuel wood, timber, dye, essential oils, and medicines". 11. Table . 1 - Galinsoga parviflora (Cav.) ?, Anthriscus sylvestris (L.)?, Clinopodium vulgare (L.)? – who will finish!? **Additional sources – systematics :** • OK!!! www.plantsystematics.org/reveal • OK !! http://Delta-intkey.com - Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences - Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the National Science Foundation of the United States of America • http://Bgflora online **Pilot studies, biotype and Distribution of plant life forms along altitudinal gradient :** ◦ http://www.countrysideinfo.co.uk › what_method • https://lter.kbs.msu.edu/prot • Figueiredo, E., Smith, G. F., & César, J. (2009). The Flora of Angola: First Record of Diversity and Endemism. Taxon, 58(1), 233–236. http://www.jstor.org/stable/27756837 • Hassan A., Usoltseva M., Rasskazov S., Chuvashova I., Titova L. 2019. First study of fossil diatom flora from Middle Miocene-Lower Pliocene lacustrine sediments in BarguzinValley, Baikal Rift Zone. Quaternary International. 524:24-30. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2019.03.024. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618219300783)	

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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?	*(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)*	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	**Silviya Stefanova Radanova**
Department, University & Country	**Trakia University, Bulgaria**