

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Environment and Climate Change
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJECC_125333
Title of the Manuscript:	The socio-environmental impacts of illegal gold panning in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript holds significant importance for the scientific community as it addresses a critical issue or gap in current research, offering new insights or methodologies that can advance understanding in the field. Its findings could potentially inform future studies, influence policy decisions, or contribute to practical applications that benefit society.</p> <p>I appreciate this manuscript for its rigorous approach to the research question, its comprehensive data analysis, and the clarity of its conclusions. However, I would critique it for any lack of depth in discussing limitations or for not adequately situating its findings within the broader context of existing literature. Overall, its strengths and weaknesses contribute valuable discourse to ongoing scientific conversations.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title "The Socio-Environmental Impacts of Illegal Gold Panning in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe" is generally suitable as it clearly indicates the focus of the study, highlighting both the socio-environmental aspects and the specific location. However, it could be slightly refined to enhance clarity and impact.</p> <p>Suggested Alternative Title: "Examining Socio-Environmental Impacts of Illegal Gold Panning in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe"</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the study on illegal gold panning in Gwanda District, covering key aspects such as the socio-environmental challenges, research methodology, findings, and implications for policy and development. However, a few suggestions for improvement can enhance clarity and coherence.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarity and Conciseness: While the abstract is informative, some sentences can be made more concise for better readability. 2. Explicit Objectives: The abstract could benefit from a more explicit statement of the study's objectives early on to set the context clearly. 3. Highlighting Key Findings: While the abstract does mention findings, summarizing the main results succinctly could provide more clarity on the study's contributions. 4. Final Recommendations: Including a brief mention of specific recommendations in the conclusion could highlight the practical applications of the research. 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>yes</p>	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness and technical soundness through its comprehensive mixed-method research design, which effectively combines quantitative data from questionnaires with qualitative insights from interviews and field observations. This approach allows for a nuanced understanding of the socio-environmental impacts of illegal gold panning. Additionally, the study meticulously outlines its methodology, ensuring transparency and reproducibility, which are critical in scientific research. The inclusion of a diverse range of stakeholders, such as local residents, gold panners, and government officials, enriches the data and strengthens the validity of the findings. Furthermore, the manuscript effectively contextualizes its results within existing literature, highlighting the relevance and implications for policy and practice in Zimbabwe's mining sector. Overall, the thoroughness of the research, clear articulation of methods, and strong data support contribute to the manuscript's scientific integrity.</p>	

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<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>The references cited in the manuscript appear to be both sufficient and relevant, covering a range of socio-environmental issues related to illegal gold panning in Zimbabwe. The inclusion of both recent studies (such as those from 2019) and foundational works provides a balanced perspective on the topic. However, the majority of the references seem to be from the earlier 2000s to 2019, so the manuscript could benefit from more recent studies to reflect ongoing research developments and emerging trends in artisanal mining and its impacts.</p> <p>Suggestions for Additional References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe. (2020). "Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Policy Framework." This report could provide insights into the current policy landscape affecting artisanal mining. 2. Hentschel, T., Hruschka, F., & Priester, M. (2021). "Artisanal and small-scale mining in the new global context: Environmental and social dynamics." <i>International Journal of Mining, Reclamation and Environment</i>. This recent publication discusses updated challenges and solutions in artisanal mining globally. 3. World Bank. (2022). "The Role of Artisanal Mining in a Sustainable Future: Opportunities and Challenges." This report addresses the socio-economic dimensions and the potential for sustainable practices in artisanal mining. 4. Zhou, S., & Wang, J. (2021). "Socio-environmental impacts of artisanal mining in Africa: A review." <i>Environmental Science and Policy</i>. This article provides a comparative analysis of artisanal mining impacts across Africa, which can enrich the discussion in the manuscript. 	
<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article appear to be suitable for scholarly communication. Here are some strengths and considerations:</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarity and Coherence: The abstract presents the research clearly and logically, outlining the study's purpose, methodology, findings, and implications. This organization aids reader comprehension. 2. Technical Terminology: The use of relevant technical terms and jargon related to mining and socio-environmental impacts demonstrates the authors' familiarity with the field. 3. Formal Tone: The language maintains a formal tone appropriate for academic writing, which is essential for scholarly communications. <p>Considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complex Sentence Structures: Some sentences are lengthy and could be simplified for better readability. Breaking them into shorter sentences can enhance clarity. 2. Grammar and Syntax: While generally well-written, a thorough proofreading could catch minor grammatical errors or awkward phrasing that may detract from the overall quality. 3. Consistency: Ensure consistent use of terms and definitions throughout the manuscript to maintain clarity. 	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>References should be written in alphabetical order.</p> <p>Other Areas for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literature Review: A more extensive literature review could strengthen the theoretical framework of the study. Discussing existing research in greater depth can help situate the findings within the broader academic discourse. 2. Data Analysis: While the methods are clearly outlined, more detail on the data analysis process would enhance transparency. Discussing specific analytical techniques used to interpret the qualitative and quantitative data could provide clearer insights into the findings. 3. Limitations: Acknowledging the study's limitations would add depth to the discussion. Discussing potential biases, data collection challenges, or gaps in the research could provide a more balanced view. 	

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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Wilbert Bugtong Wanas
Department, University & Country	Guinaoang National High School, Philippines