

**Review Form 3**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Environment and Climate Change</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJECC_126095
Title of the Manuscript:	SPATIAL VARIABILITY OF MICRONUTRIENT STATUS IN MIYAWAKI FOREST DEVELOPMENT
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

### Review Form 3

#### 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><b>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.</b></p>	<p>This study is crucial in understanding how the Miyawaki forest restoration technique positively impacts soil health and fertility, especially in regions like Kerala. By comparing soil samples from a Miyawaki forest and adjacent barren land, the research demonstrates how afforestation improves critical soil parameters, such as organic matter, pH, and micronutrient levels. This suggests that Miyawaki forests not only enhance biodiversity but also contribute to long-term soil restoration. The findings underscore the role of such forests in mitigating soil degradation and promoting sustainable land management, providing valuable insights for ecologists, conservationists, and policymakers.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The "Aim" section contains a fragmented sentence: "By focusing on key parameters..." should be merged or restructured for coherence.</li> <li>• In "Methods," "was subjected to various analysis" should be "was subjected to various analyses."</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript is scientifically robust due to its clear aim of analyzing soil micronutrient variability in Miyawaki forests compared to adjacent barren land, focusing on key parameters such as soil pH, organic matter content, and micronutrient levels. The study design is well-defined, utilizing representative soil samples from both the forest and an undisturbed plot, allowing for reliable comparative analysis. Significant findings show improvements in soil chemical parameters, indicating enhanced soil fertility and health, which have important implications for biodiversity and ecological sustainability. Additionally, the observations regarding depth variability in pH and micronutrient concentrations provide valuable insights into soil dynamics related to Miyawaki forest restoration.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p>The references included are comprehensive and up-to-date</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase "enhance urban greening and facilitate ecological restoration" could be more succinctly expressed as "enhance urban greening and ecological restoration."</li> <li>The phrase "this study focuses on the alteration in physical and chemical properties of soil" could be simplified to "this study focuses on alterations in the physical and chemical properties of soil."</li> <li>The sentence "In this regard, the current study aimed at determining the effects of a newly planted Miyawaki forest..." could flow better if it started with "This study aimed to determine..."</li> </ul> <p><b>Result and Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase "was found to be significantly higher/significantly higher" is repeated. Using varied language could improve readability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase "can be assumed" may weaken the assertion. It's better to state findings more confidently based on the study's results.</li> <li>It is recommended to revise <b>"Many environmental factors and several management practices together determine the spatial variability of the micronutrient status in Miyawaki forests"</b> to <b>"Various environmental factors and specific management practices contribute to the spatial variability of micronutrient status in these forests"</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Reference:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference [3] lacks complete citation details, specifically the journal name, volume, issue, and page numbers, making it incomplete. Ensure that the missing details are added for clarity and completeness.</li> <li>Review all other references to ensure they are sufficiently detailed and adhere to a consistent citation format</li> <li><b>Ensure consistent use of terms such as "soil organic carbon" (SOC) and "organic matter" to avoid confusion.</b></li> </ul>	

**PART 2:**

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

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