

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_126415
Title of the Manuscript:	Assessment of the Soils and Tailings Multi-element Pollution from the Koma Bangou (Niger) Artisanal Gold Mining Area
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

#### **General guidelines for the 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 guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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#### PART 1: Review Comments

<b>Compulsory</b> 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>
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.	To summarize, the study assessed the multi-element pollution (As, Cr, Cu, Mn, Pb, and Zn) in soils and tailings from the Koma Bangou artisanal gold mining area in Niger. The results showed significant pollution in the cyanidation areas, particularly in acidification waste and cyanidation waste. Perimeter soils, however, were largely unpolluted. This article Provides valuable insights into the environmental impacts of artisanal gold mining. Consider expanding on mitigation strategies and policy implications to strengthen the study's conclusions.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes this is almost accurate. But you can use this title "Assessing Multi-Element Pollution in Artisanal Gold Mining Areas: A Case Study of Koma Bangou, Niger"	
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.	Yes! The abstract is comprehensive.	
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	Yes	
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.	This manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness due to: 1. Clear research question and objectives. 2. Systematic sampling and analytical methods. 3. Rigorous data analysis and statistical testing. 4. Comparison with established environmental guidelines. 5. Transparent presentation of results, including limitations. These elements contribute to the study's reliability, validity, and generalizability, making it scientifically robust.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =	The references provided are a very good starting point, that could benefit from additional recent studies to strengthen the manuscript's arguments. Suggested recent references: 1. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2022) 2. Science of The Total Environment (2020) 3. Environmental Science & Technology (2022) 4 "Environmental Impacts of Artisanal Gold Mining" (Journal of Environmental Management, 2020) 5. "Heavy Metal Pollution in Mining Areas" (Environmental Pollution, 2022) 6. "Sustainable Artisanal Mining Practices" (Journal of Cleaner Production, 2021) Inclusion of these references enhanced the manuscript's credibility and relevance. Recommendation: Consider adding 5-7 recent references (2019-2023) to support key findings and discussions.	
Minor REVISION comments Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Yes	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments		

#### 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:	Argha Modak
Department, University & Country	Burdwan University, India