

### 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	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's Feedback</b> (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<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>	Using geochemical data obtained by portable XRF analysis, corrected by ICP-MS, the study enabled a quantitative and reliable assessment of pollution. The choice of the Pollution Load Index (PLI) to assess the intensity of contamination is pertinent, as it enables the level of pollution for different metals to be quantified and the most impacted areas to be identified. By comparing metal levels with local background data, the researchers were able to isolate the anthropogenic source of the pollution, reinforcing the validity of their conclusions. The scientific approach in this study is rigorous and well-structured. It is useful for guiding rehabilitation measures and the management of treatment residues, while also providing a sound basis for environmental policy decisions in the region.	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	<b>Yes, the title is relevant</b>	
<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>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<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>	This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound due to the use of a rigorous analytical methodology based on geochemical data and advanced analytical techniques (portable XRF and ICP-MS), guaranteeing high precision in the quantification of contaminating elements. The use of the Pollution Load Index (PLI) adds a quantitative dimension to the study, enabling an objective and standardized assessment of pollution levels in different types of waste and soil. By integrating local soil-geochemical background data, the authors enhance the accuracy of the interpretation by distinguishing between natural and anthropogenic sources of pollution. This technical approach, combined with a systematic analysis of impacted areas, provides well-founded conclusions to guide environmental site management.	
<b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b>	Yes	
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments <b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b>	Yes	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	No comment	

#### PART 2:

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

#### Reviewer Details:

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