

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Environment and Climate Change
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJECC_122252
Title of the Manuscript:	Situational Analysis of Plastic Pollution in Freetown
Type of the 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>
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.	This manuscript is important for the scientific community as it provides a comprehensive situational analysis of plastic pollution in Freetown, a pressing environmental issue that affects public health, economic stability, and ecological integrity. By highlighting the sources, impacts, and management challenges of plastic waste, the research offers valuable insights that can inform policymakers, local authorities, and environmental organizations in developing effective strategies to combat plastic pollution. I appreciate the manuscript's focus on a specific urban context, as it underscores the need for localized solutions to global environmental challenges. However, the manuscript could benefit from clearer language and more recent references to enhance its impact and relevance in ongoing discussions about sustainable waste management practices.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The title "Situational Analysis of Plastic Pollution in Freetown" is suitable as it clearly conveys the focus of the research on plastic pollution within a specific geographic context. However, to enhance its appeal and specificity, a more descriptive title could be considered. Alternative Title Suggestion "Assessing the Impact and Management of Plastic Pollution in Freetown: A Comprehensive Situational Analysis" This alternative title emphasizes both the assessment aspect and the implications for management, which in my opinion may attract a broader audience interested in environmental science and policy.	

Review Form 3

<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 of the article provides a solid overview of the issue of plastic pollution in Freetown, including key statistics and the significance of the research. However, it could be made more comprehensive by including a few additional points for clarity and depth.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and Purpose: Clearly state the main objectives of the study at the beginning of the abstract. This will help readers understand the specific aims of the research. • Methodology Overview: Briefly mention the methodology used in the study, such as the qualitative and integrative literature review, to provide context on how the findings were derived. • Key Findings: Include a summary of the main findings or conclusions drawn from the analysis. This could highlight the most significant impacts of plastic pollution and any recommendations made. It was included but you can make it more clear. • Implications: Consider adding a sentence about the broader implications of the research for policy and practice, emphasizing how the findings can contribute to sustainable waste management efforts in Freetown. <p>By incorporating these elements, the abstract would provide a more complete picture of the research, making it easier for readers to grasp the significance and contributions of the study.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript appear to be appropriate for the topic being addressed. The organization facilitates a logical flow of information, guiding the reader through the situational analysis of plastic pollution in Freetown. Key components such as the introduction, methodology, findings, and conclusion are present, which are essential for a comprehensive research paper.</p> <p>However, a few suggestions for improvement could enhance clarity and readability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Headings: Ensure that all subsections have clear and descriptive headings that accurately reflect their content. This will help readers navigate the manuscript more easily. • Consistent Formatting: Maintain consistent formatting throughout the manuscript, including font sizes, styles, and spacing in headings and subheadings, to improve overall presentation. • Logical Flow: Ensure that the transition between subsections is smooth and logical. Adding brief introductory sentences at the beginning of each subsection can help connect ideas and maintain coherence. • Summary of Key Points: Consider including a brief summary or key points section at the end of major sections to reinforce the main findings and implications discussed. <p>Overall, while the structure is fundamentally sound, these enhancements could improve the manuscript's clarity and accessibility for readers.</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 situational analysis of plastic pollution in Freetown, supported by relevant data and statistics. The use of a qualitative and integrative literature review methodology allows for a thorough</p>	

Review Form 3

	<p>examination of existing research, providing a solid foundation for the findings presented. Additionally, the manuscript effectively contextualizes the issue within the broader framework of public health, environmental sustainability, and socioeconomic factors, highlighting the multifaceted nature of plastic pollution. By drawing on reputable sources, including government reports and international organizations, the research ensures credibility and reliability, making it a valuable contribution to the discourse on waste management and environmental protection in urban settings.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript appear to be a mix of recent and foundational works, which is essential for establishing a comprehensive understanding of the topic. However, there are a few considerations regarding their sufficiency and recency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficiency: While the references cited provide a good starting point, the manuscript could benefit from a broader range of recent studies specifically focused on plastic pollution, waste management, and environmental impacts in urban settings. This would enhance the depth of the literature review and provide a more current perspective on the issue. • Recency: Some references may be outdated, particularly if they do not reflect the latest research or developments in plastic pollution and waste management practices. It is advisable to include more recent studies from the last 3-5 years to ensure that the manuscript reflects the current state of knowledge in the field. • Diversity of Sources: Including a wider variety of sources, such as peer-reviewed journal articles, reports from environmental organizations, and case studies from similar urban contexts, would strengthen the manuscript's arguments and provide a more comprehensive view of the challenges and solutions related to plastic pollution. • Suggestions for Additional References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recent articles from journals such as "Waste Management," "Environmental Science & Technology," or "Journal of Environmental Management" that focus on urban waste management and plastic pollution. ✓ Reports from organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) or the World Bank that provide updated statistics and strategies for addressing plastic waste. ✓ Case studies from other cities facing similar challenges, which could offer insights into effective management practices and policies. <p>I think by addressing these points, the manuscript can enhance its academic rigor and relevance in the ongoing discourse surrounding plastic pollution and waste management.</p>	

Review Form 3

<p>Minor REVISION 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 generally suitable for scholarly communication, but there are areas that could benefit from improvement to enhance clarity and professionalism. Here are some observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity and Precision: While the manuscript conveys important information, some sentences may be overly complex or convoluted, which can hinder understanding. Simplifying language and breaking down long sentences into shorter, clearer ones would improve readability. Use punctuations appropriately.• Technical Terminology: The use of technical terms related to plastic pollution and waste management is appropriate for a scholarly audience. However, ensuring that these terms are well-defined when first introduced, this will help readers who may not be familiar with the specific jargon.• Grammar and Syntax: There may be occasional grammatical errors or awkward phrasing that could detract from the overall professionalism of the manuscript. A thorough proofreading process is recommended to correct any such issues and ensure grammatical accuracy. Find someone whose mother tongue is English to proofread.• Consistency in Style: Maintaining a consistent writing style throughout the manuscript is important for scholarly communication. This includes uniformity in the use of abbreviations, citation formats, and overall tone. For example, there are full stop before in-text citations and after, kindly check this.• Formal Tone: The manuscript should maintain a formal academic tone throughout. Avoiding colloquial expressions and ensuring that the language is appropriately formal will enhance its suitability for scholarly audiences. <p>In summary, while the manuscript is generally suitable for scholarly communication, addressing these language and stylistic issues will significantly improve its quality and effectiveness in conveying research findings. A careful revision process focusing on clarity, grammar, and consistency will be beneficial.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Here are some optional/general comments that could enhance the manuscript:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction Enhancement: The introduction could benefit from a more detailed overview of the significance of plastic pollution globally and its specific implications for Freetown. This would help contextualize the local issue within a broader framework and underscore the urgency of addressing it.• Visual Aids: modify your figures some of them are not clear. Enhancing them could effectively illustrate key data points, such as the volume of plastic waste generated or the sources of plastic pollution. If possible, include a flow chart showing sources of plastic in Free town and the impact. Visual representations can enhance understanding and retention of information.• Stakeholder Engagement: The manuscript mentions the need for cooperation among various stakeholders. Expanding on how different groups (government, NGOs, community members) can collaborate and what specific roles they can play would provide practical insights for	

Comment [h1]:

Review Form 3

	<p>implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Research Directions: Including a section on potential future research directions could be beneficial. This would highlight gaps in the current literature and suggest areas where further investigation is needed, thereby contributing to the ongoing academic discourse. • Policy Implications: A more explicit discussion of the policy implications of the findings could strengthen the manuscript. This could include recommendations for specific policies or initiatives that could be implemented to mitigate plastic pollution in Freetown. • Community Involvement: Emphasizing the role of community involvement and education in addressing plastic pollution could provide a more holistic view of the issue. Discussing strategies for raising public awareness and encouraging responsible consumption could be valuable. • Conclusion Strengthening: The conclusion could be more impactful by summarizing the key findings and their implications succinctly. Reinforcing the call to action for stakeholders and policymakers would leave readers with a clear understanding of the next steps needed to address the issue. <p>By considering these comments, the manuscript can be further refined to enhance its clarity, impact, and relevance to both academic and practical audiences.</p>	
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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?	<i>(If yes. Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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