

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Environment &amp; Ecology</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEE_123619
Title of the Manuscript:	Evaluating the Sustainability of Incentive-Based Conservation: A Case Study of the Taungya System in the Mount Elgon Conservation Area, Uganda
Type of the Article	Original 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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[Review Form 3](#)

**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>
<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 manuscript holds significant importance for the scientific community as it addresses the sustainability of incentive-based conservation practices, specifically the Taungya system, in balancing conservation efforts and community livelihoods. By using a mixed-methods approach, the study provides valuable insights into the socio-economic and environmental challenges faced by local populations involved in conservation. I appreciate this manuscript for its in-depth exploration of policy recommendations aimed at securing long-term benefits for both biodiversity and communities. However, the limitations identified, such as land tenure insecurity and inadequate year-round socio-economic benefits, underscore areas where the system could be further refined for broader application.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title, "Evaluating the Sustainability of Incentive-Based Conservation: A Case Study of the Taungya System in the Mount Elgon Conservation Area, Uganda," is quite descriptive and captures the essence of the study. However, it could be slightly more concise while still conveying the key elements.</p> <p>Suggested alternative:  <b>"Assessing the Sustainability of the Taungya System: Incentive-Based Conservation in Uganda's Mount Elgon"</b></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>	<p><b>The abstract is comprehensive, providing a clear overview of the study's objectives, methods, and findings. It effectively summarizes the key points regarding the Taungya system's environmental and socio-economic impacts. However, a few refinements could enhance its clarity and depth:</b></p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b>  <b>Clarify Methodology:</b> While the mixed-methods approach is mentioned, adding a brief explanation of how the data was analyzed (e.g., using SPSS) would enhance the completeness.  <b>Suggestion:</b> "Utilizing SPSS for quantitative data analysis, and thematic analysis for qualitative insights..."  <b>Highlight Specific Results:</b> The abstract mentions successes and challenges but could benefit from more specific findings, such as the percentage increase in vegetation cover or the proportion of participants benefiting socio-economically.  <b>Suggestion:</b> Include concrete statistics or numbers to give a clearer picture of the outcomes.  <b>Strengthen Conclusion:</b> The conclusion could emphasize the broader relevance of the findings more directly, such as how they could be applied to other regions or similar conservation models.  <b>Suggestion:</b> "These findings highlight critical considerations for designing incentive-based conservation programs in tropical regions globally."  <b>Deletion:</b>  The phrase "its long-term sustainability is challenged by factors such as..." could be condensed to make it more succinct, as the specific challenges are already mentioned elsewhere.</p>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes appropriate.</b></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 appears to be scientifically robust and technically sound due to its well-structured methodology, which employs both quantitative and qualitative data, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the Taungya system. The use of a representative sample size, coupled with statistical analysis through SPSS, provides credibility to the findings. Additionally, the inclusion of both socio-economic and environmental factors highlights a holistic approach to evaluating conservation sustainability. The</p>	

**Review Form 3**

	clear identification of challenges such as land tenure and agricultural restrictions further demonstrates the rigor and depth of the study's analysis.	
<b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b>	<b>Some reference are not recent. Please update reference and add recent reference.</b>	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments  <b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b>	Yes, the language quality of the article is generally suitable for scholarly communication. The manuscript is written in clear, formal English, with well-structured sentences and appropriate use of technical terms relevant to conservation and socio-economic analysis. However, there are areas where minor improvements in phrasing or sentence flow could enhance readability and precision. Overall, the language is appropriate for an academic audience, but slight refinements in sentence structure could further elevate its clarity.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	<input type="checkbox"/> The manuscript provides a valuable case study on the sustainability of the Taungya system, highlighting important socio-economic and environmental challenges in incentive-based conservation. The mixed-methods approach strengthens the research by offering both qualitative and quantitative insights.  <input type="checkbox"/> The study could benefit from a clearer presentation of the statistical analysis and its implications. Including specific figures and statistical significance in the results would add to the scientific rigor.  <input type="checkbox"/> It would be useful to expand on how the findings of this study can be applied to other regions or conservation models. This could enhance the global relevance of the research.  <input type="checkbox"/> The study addresses a critical issue in conservation by balancing human livelihood with ecological preservation, making it a valuable contribution to the field. A few structural and clarity improvements will further strengthen the manuscript.	

**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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